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NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

The battle for Moscow has reached an acute stage. It is stated that Germans have advanced to Mojaisk, 65 miles west of Moscow. Briansk, Vyazma and Mariupol have been evacuated by Russians. Germany is in need of success before winter, but Allied aid being rushed to Russia is a serious obstacle to this achievement. Russian morale and fighting power remain unimpaired and reserves are moving up. M. Lozovsky, the Soviet spokesman, has expressed his confidence that the Germans will never take Moscow.

News from Washington is to the effect that many officers, ranging from Second Lieutenants to Major-Generals, have been relieved of their command, following on the army manœuvres held in Louisiana recently.

Mr. William Green, President of the American Federation of Labour, in a message to Britain and Canada, has expressed the firm resolve and determination of American Labour to stand beside these countries to the bitter end. He added that if it became necessary for American Labour to do more than work in mines, mills and factories, if the call came to give service as before, they would meet that call unitedly and courageously.

The United States House of Representatives has refused to exclude Russia from aid under the Lease and Lend Appropriation.

Mr. Cordell Hull, Mr. Stimson and others connected with the Administration of the United States demanded before the Foreign Relations Committee the revision of the Neutrality Act to permit the arming of merchantmen. Mr. Hull said that the Nazi plan of conquest was so unusual that many people in the United States did not at all perceive the danger to America that this movement portended. This failure to realise and comprehend the vastness of the plan and the savagery of its unlimited objectives had been and still was the greatest single source of peril to those free peoples who were yet unconquered.

The Navy Department of the United States has discovered a Nazi Radio Station at Greenland and ' disposed of ' it. A small Norwegian steamer *en route* to Greenland has been taken into custody. The vessel had been obviously despatched to Greenland under the auspices of the Nazi authorities to establish a radio station from where weather reports and other information could be sent to Germany.

A new rich oil-field has been discovered by the Soviet Union in Kosum Ozmailovo district near the Naphthquile oil-field. Operations have been started for constructing the necessary number of wells.

Russia and Japan have signed an agreement in regard to the border dispute between their puppet States of Manchukuo and Outer Mongolia.

The situation in Japan is deteriorating. Prince Konoye's Cabinet has resigned after three months, because of lack of complete agreement in regard to national policy. It appears that military control of public affairs is likely. Japanese newspapers have begun a war of nerves on America and a Navy Spokesman is reported as saying that the Japanese Navy was itching for action. American opinion has been stirred and there is demand for immobilising Japan. The story of British demands on Thailand is being revived. Meanwhile extension of the Japanese airline to Portuguese Timor, 500 miles from Australia is being carefully studied in Dutch East Indies.

America, Great Britain and Australia. Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in the Far East, who is now in Australia, has stated, "We do not want war with Japan, but if Japan insists on it we are ready." He added that war equipment was now rolling eastwards. Talk of Japanese attack on Siberia has also been revived.

CHINA

There is a wave of optimism in China. There are many reasons why this feeling that China will succeed in the end is justified. As Marshal Chiang-Kai-Shek said on the eve of the 30th Anniversary of the Chinese Republic, the Powers opposed to aggression have closed their ranks and peace-loving nations have ranged themselves in the Pacific, resolved to resist aggression on the part of any Power. China has crossed the threshold of equality with other nations, as evidenced by the fact that Anglo-American declarations have been made of the intention on the part of these countries to relinquish extra-territorial rights in China. Further, Great Britain and America have completely stopped the export of oil to Japan and Japan is now facing considerable economic difficulties owing to the freezing operation on the part of the democratic countries.

Recent Chinese successes constitute another substantial reason for this optimism. As is well known, the main Japanese drive was south from Yochow on the Yangtse towards Changsha, an important road and rail junction in Hunan province. The Chinese maintain their communications with the three eastern provinces in Kiangsi, Fukien and Chekiang through Changsha as also between Shangai and Canton. Two years ago, the Japanese attempted to take Changsha unsuccessfully. On the present occasion, the Japanese Forces, which were very large, were allowed to approach within eight miles of the City and were then attacked from the flanks and the rear and driven back in confusion, suffering 79,500 casualties, including 33,600 dead. The Japanese, of course, have taken the walled city of Chengchow which is a very important town. The Chinese controlled only the western half of the Peiping-Hankow railway, so that the capture of Chengchow is important to the Japanese while its loss is not so serious to the Chinese. The Chinese who captured Ichang by a lightning attack have had to abandon the town owing to intensive bombing by the Japanese. Ichang is a Treaty Port of 100,000 inhabitants and as it is from this place that the Japanese launch their numerous air raids on Chungking, its loss is a matter of some importance. But the Chinese are not only advancing on Shasi but are also converging on Yochow and Linsiang on the North Hunan front. On the whole, the Chinese successes in 1941 have been very important. In the north, the Japanese have had important successes; in the centre, they have been held and elsewhere they have been beaten by the Chinese.

Dr. Wellington Koo has therefore reason to say, as he did recently in London, that the tide of the Far Eastern struggle has definitely turned in favour of China. World-wide sympathy with the Chinese cause and considerable assistance on the part of Great Britain, United States and Russia are circumstances which it is well to remember in this connexion.

There is the further fact that China has now nearly 5,000,000 men under arms of whom between one and two millions are guerillas. The Chinese forces are well-disciplined and well-equipped. Numerous small arsenals, scattered over the whole of China, have been established and they turn out large quantities of rifles, ammunition, grenades and small artillery. Officers of excellent quality are being trained and the recent wars have improved knowledge and practice of tactics. China lacks heavy artillery and aircraft and Britain and America are doing their best to send these through the Burma Road. America is further building pursuit planes for China.

CASUALTIES IN THE RUSSO-GERMAN WAR

Astronomical figures of Russian casualties mark the German propaganda. Hitler's estimates and the estimates of the Director of the Moscow Information Bureau were given in our last week's issue and it is not necessary to repeat them. It is not, however, difficult to assess the relative veracity of the two sides. It should be remembered that the Russians are consistently and periodically publishing their losses and have not tended to minimize their extent or seriousness, while the Germans have never published any comprehensive figures of their losses and have done their best to minimize them. The Russians have, of course, been slow in the publication of news relating to the war for obvious tactical reasons, but they have never been boastful or deceitful. On the other hand, the German radio has been both boastful and mendacious. For instance, the German radio announced on July 7 that the Russians had thrown in their last reserves: the fact is that reserves are still coming. On July 21, the German radio said that it was only a question of days before Leningrad was captured or destroyed: Leningrad is still in Russian hands. It was stated by Germans at Ankara that the war would be over in six weeks: this week marks the 17th week and the war is still going on. We have not exhausted examples of German untruths. At one time Germany said that the Red Air Force consisted only of 7,000 planes while the Italians put the limit at between 6,000 and 10,000 planes, but Hitler says he has destroyed 14,500 aircraft: the Red Air Force is

still alive and kicking. United States observers and neutral reports also confirm the unreliable character of German estimates of Russian losses.

DEMAND FOR INVASION OF THE CONTINENT

In Great Britain, public discussion in regard to the necessity for opening up a second front in the west is still proceeding. There is an impression that the mentality of the British High Command is still defensive. The Prime Minister has so far refused to be drawn into a public discussion of this question and there are very good reasons for this attitude.

On the 14th October Mr. Shinwell asked the Prime Minister if he was aware of the considerable discontent in the country about the whole substance and speed of assistance rendered to Russia, to which the Prime Minister replied that Mr. Shinwell should not suppose that he had the monopoly of anxiety in these matters. The Prime Minister further deprecated discussion on this question either in public or in secret. Such discussion, it is obvious, would give the enemy information upon matters of Allied strategy.

Three circumstances may, however, be mentioned which bear upon this subject. The first is that Russia is getting whatever she asks for. M. Stalin has publicly acknowledged the extent of American and British assistance. The second point is that the British have during the last few months built up a most powerful front in the Middle East from Egypt to Iran. Public testimony has been given to the fact that this defence line is formidable and that reinforcements of every kind are reaching Egypt, Palestine, Syria and other countries. There is also the further fact that the British Air Force is striking hard at the heart of Germany. In the last two weeks, the Royal Air Force has done terrible havoc in Germany and occupied countries. The number of bombers taking part in these raids is increasing and the damage done is very heavy.

All the three Royal Air Force Commands—Bomber, Coastal and Fighter—have resumed day and night offensives on the Western Front and they are meeting with less and less resistance on the part of German fighters and bombers. The Royal Air Force is also destroying or damaging enemy supply ships and supply boats off the coast of Norway and in the North Sea. These factors should tell on German morale and German capacity for continuing the offensive in the East. Half the number of German fighters, which would otherwise be among the Russians, are now detained to meet the Royal Air Force. The American announcer from Berlin who is now back in America has testified to the enormous damage inflicted on German industry by the Royal Air Force. A Continental invasion this year is unlikely. If the British High Command is convinced that such an offensive would be successful, it would have no hesitation in launching it.

THE CRISIS IN RUSSIA

FIERCE BATTLE FOR MOSCOW

The latest German offensive in Russia has now lasted seventeen days and Hitler has thrown everything into the struggle in order to clinch a decision before the winter sets in. Winter is not likely to stop military operations altogether but it will certainly add to the difficulties of the invading army—forced to maintain its lines of communications from bases far in the rear. The first falls of snow are already reported and by the middle of November most of Russia will be in the grip of Arctic cold. If her troops can hold together till then, Hitler will have to reconcile himself to a winter campaign and despite their well-nigh crippling loss of valuable territory, the Russians will be enabled by British and American help to stand up to, and beat off the Germans in the coming spring. Lord Beaverbrook, on his return from the Three-Power Conference at Moscow, says that all the tanks and planes asked for by the Russian High Command have been promised by Britain and America; and in addition a large quantity of other heavy weapons of war is also being sent. He pledges that Britain will not fail Russia and that M. Stalin's heroic resistance to Hitler will be sustained. He has called on British Labour to go full steam ahead with the task of producing 30,000 tanks. And, in America, President Roosevelt expresses confidence that nothing in the conditions on the Russian front makes him doubt the success of the American programme of giving aid to nations resisting the Axis. The United States House of Representatives, approving a big new appropriation under the Lease and Lend Act, has expressly refused to exclude Russia from the benefits of the Lease and Lend programme. Lastly, most reassuring of all, M. Stalin has just paid a visit to the front and has satisfied himself that the Russians will baulk the Germans of their main objectives—the annihilation of the Russian armies in the centre and the liquidation of Russia as a fighting force.

This is not, however, to say that the position on the Russian front is not anxious and even critical. The next few days will decide whether the threat to Moscow will be warded off or the Russian capital will be forced to stand up like Leningrad to a heavy siege. The Nazi drive in the Central Sector started in the form of a furious attack by German troops from Yartzevo to Orel. Germany concentrated on this arc of the front huge forces, particularly tanks and aircraft. The struggle was exceptionally fierce, especially around Orel, Vyazma and Briansk, considerable forces being thrown into the fighting by both sides. At last, after stubborn resistance for a fortnight and after inflicting on the Germans casualties on a colossal scale, the Russians evacuated the three towns mentioned above. The Germans, advancing on a narrow front in great strength, reached Mojaisk, only 65 miles from Moscow, but were driven back by Soviet counter-attacks. Berlin claims that the outer defences of Moscow are under German fire but it is evident that Soviet resistance and counter-attacks have slowed down the enemy's drive. Indeed, it is these counter-attacks that constitute the most heartening feature of the fighting. The Germans give astronomical figures while announcing the number of prisoners captured in any given sector; and yet, again and again, the Russians have shown they are far from being demoralized and hit back with great reserve power. The temporary superiority which the Germans won in the air early this week has been neutralized and new Soviet fighters and dive-bombers are ceaselessly in action in support of the land forces. A steady stream of well-trained and well-equipped troops is moving west from Moscow to the front. And American experts calculate that even if Germany wins the Battle of Moscow, she will have paid dearly for it in men and material and will be exhausted for a long time to come.

In the extreme south, while there is no need to accept at its face value the German High Command's pompous claim that the Battle of the Sea of Azov has concluded with the "annihilation" of the Soviet "Ninth and Eighteenth Armies," the threat to the Crimea and the Caucasus cannot be minimized. But the Russians are offering as stubborn a resistance here as in the Central Sector. And the German drive from Poltava to Kharkov, key city of the Ukraine, has not registered appreciable progress; Odessa is reported to have fallen after a long siege in the south; but Leningrad holds out proudly in the north, and several successful sorties by the Russian troops in the city are reported. In the Murmansk area in the far north, all is quiet.

The Italian newspaper *La Stampa* evidently does not share the optimism of the German propaganda agencies and strikes a cautious note. It says: "The struggle against Russia is not finished because Soviet divisions still exist which have not been destroyed nor encircled." The newspaper foresees a Spring campaign against the Russian army, "which during the winter will have time to reconstitute itself. The *Stampa* further underlines German difficulties and says: "The needs of the millions of German soldiers are immense. Transport difficulties remain formidable." It adds that hundreds of thousands of technicians and workers who are engaged in improving the German lines of communication, are obliged to work rifle in hand because Soviet attacks never cease.

ITALY BROKEN AND DISPIRITED

SERIOUS AXIS LIABILITY

It was on 10th June 1940, that "the swollen bull-frog of the Pontine Marshes," as Kamal Ataturk once called Mussolini, threw out his chest and shouted from the balcony of his palace at Rome, "Proletarian and Fascist Italy is for the third time on her feet, strong, proud and united as she has never been before. We have only one watch-word, which is clear-cut and binds everyone. This word is already in the air, and is burning in Italian hearts from the Alps to the Indian Ocean—to conquer. And we shall conquer to give at last a long period of peace with justice to Italy, to Europe, to the world."

In the course of sixteen months Italy, as a fighting force, has become a serious liability to the Axis, having to rely on Germany not only for military initiative but for all forms of supply. After a short-lived triumph over the small police garrison in British Somaliland, Italy has seen her empire in Africa broken up by the courage and skill of the armies of the British Commonwealth. Eritrea, her oldest and proudest colony, and all Somaliland are now in Allied hands. The grievous wrong that she did to Abyssinia six years ago has been undone and the Ethiopian Emperor is once more on his throne at Addis Ababa. General Wavell, at present Commander-in-Chief in India, by superb application of mechanized warfare to the desert, speedily accounted for the entire Italian army in Cyrenaica as the hundreds of thousands of Italian prisoners in India testify. And, though under pressure of developments in the Balkans, he was forced to withdraw his troops from the Libyan territory he conquered, neither the Italians nor the Germans under von Rommel (who were rushed to North Africa by the Nazi High Command) have been able to invade Egypt. And Tobruk stands in the very heart of Cyrenaica—a fortress manned by Indian and other soldiers, who defy all the attempts of the Axis to take it by storm and, in turn, continually threaten the enemy's lines of communications. The British Navy sails serenely on the Mediterranean and makes short work of Italian and German convoys and units of the Italian Navy whenever they dare to show themselves. And the Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force range the sky from Tripoli to Milan and Genoa, striking heavily at Italian industrial and military centres. And, finally, we may recall the ignominy which the Italians courted in Greece and Albania and how they were rescued at the eleventh hour by the German legions. Italy cannot even maintain order either in the territory that Germany has graciously asked her to police or in Croatia where an Axis puppet State is ruled by an Italian Prince.

There is not the least doubt that the Italians are war-weary and worn out. They will be sorely tried during the long nights of winter when the R.A.F. raids not only on Libya but on the mainland will become constant and severe. It is not possible to confirm the report that His Holiness the Pope will shortly leave the Vatican and take up his quarters elsewhere. That will enable the British and Allied airmen to bomb Rome with freedom as a reprisal for the Italian bombing of London. But it certainly indicates what is soon coming to Italy.

There is no cause therefore to be surprised at the reports which speak of simmering unrest in Italy. Shortage of food and milk, irregularities in the stock markets, perpetual price changes, unbridled speculation and general lack of confidence in the currency have been the subject of strong criticism in the Italian press. Anti-Fascist demonstrations are reported from Sicily and acts of sabotage have occurred in certain factories working for the German war-machine in the north. In Hitler's philosophy Germany may have friends and partners, but never any equals. Italy is in the Axis partnership, but this has not prevented her from becoming a camp-follower of Germany.

AXIS "BROTHERHOOD"

A few instances of how this "Axis brotherhood" has worked out in practice are detailed below :—

(i) Italy entered the war with the cry for Corsica, Tunis and Savoy on her lips; to-day she is not allowed to occupy even a town in Savoy, to say nothing of the French Empire in Africa. Hungary, traditionally an Italian sphere of influence, has fallen under German, rather than Italian control. Nor has Italy been allowed to take even a nominal part in the vital negotiations between Vichy and Berlin.

(ii) Germany has now more or less direct military control in Italy. About 50,000 German troops were reported to have arrived at the ports of Bari and Naples last December. In addition to supply trains, an artillery regiment, an infantry regiment and an armoured division passed through Carinthia this January. Though these forces were intended for Libya, the Germans secured military infiltration into Italy, an advantage which they still retain. Important staff talks set up a joint Nazi-Fascist Command which allowed the Germans a free hand in Italy.

The resignation of Marshal Badoglio was clearly not due to the Albanian issue alone; the state of Italo-German relations had a good deal to do with it.

(iii) Economically, the existence of Italy depends on German pleasure. Italy needed oil, but it was Germany that occupied Rumania. By one stroke Hitler can starve Italy of coal, iron-ore, timber, zinc, etc. The German-Italian agricultural agreement is word for word a replica of similar arrangements imposed by Germany on occupied countries. Italian labourers have been conscripted—often by press gang methods—for compulsory labour in Germany.

(iv) Hitler's real grip on Italy is maintained, however, by the agency of the Gestapo. This secret German police controls all the key positions in vital industry, in important Italian ministries and in the politico-economic spheres of activity. When the Fascist regime reeled under the impact of military defeat in Libya during January and February this year, and the wheels of government almost came to a standstill, power passed into the hands of the Germans, who were prepared for it and had made all the necessary arrangements. Italian censorship is a formality. German censorship is superimposed upon it.

Faced with internal discontent and the fact that his carefully nourished Fascist State now harbours "Democrats, Socalists, Freemasons and Liberals" Mussolini finds that the only way to retain his authority is to fall back on the unwelcome Germans. A wholesale purge amongst the lower ranks of the party seems to have been effected in the earlier part of the year; a more determined purge may well be imminent now—with the economic unrest in the country providing the most plausible excuse. It will pay the Germans also; for, isolated from faithful and well-meaning followers, Mussolini will become more amenable to German pressure. The dismissal or convenient deaths of people like Balbo, Badoglio, Graziani, Starace and Sebastiani, thus acquire a new significance and may be the prelude to complete domination of Italy by the Germans.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S ENVOY SEES THE POPE

As more and more news of Italy's unhappiness comes to us, it is natural for many to ask how long it will be before she makes a separate peace. The recent visit of President Roosevelt's Special Envoy (Mr. Myron Taylor) to the Pope and his statement that he is carrying back reports of the utmost importance to the President have set us all speculating. But (as *The Manchester Guardian* writes) the British Government's opinion that Germany will not let Italy conclude a separate peace, even if the latter wants to, appears to be well justified. Italy may have ceased to be a great power; she cannot stop being in a strategical position. Her shores are as useful for plaguing the Allies as those of France and the Low Countries; and Germany will not let them go. It may also be expected that the Italian Royal family and the Church will be greatly concerned with the maintenance of order inside Italy, both now and after the war. Any government that attempted to get out of the war would be overthrown by the Germans and what would come afterwards? Fear of internal disorder will be a powerful force in Italy and no doubt already induces many people to let Mussolini drift along, hoping like all weak men that something after all will turn up. To the interesting question what exactly the Pope and the President did say to each other (through Mr. Taylor) it is impossible to give an answer, but it is obvious that the only hope of Italy getting out of war is at a time when the Nazis are heavily engaged elsewhere. If diplomatic procedure could provide an "escape clause," the Vatican would be the obvious intermediary. The question is, however, one of military backing and reinforcements, if necessary, from the west. As long as the battle of North Africa is undecided, there can be no question of either. Meanwhile, the Allies' opportunity lies in adding to Italy's weakness. The weaker Italy becomes, the more Germany will pay, by the dispersal of her economic and military strength—already strained to the breaking-point in Russia—for the favourable position in the Mediterranean which the Italian territories give her. Left to herself, it is hardly likely that Italy will recover. Mussolini was not able to supply weapons even for the three divisions which he sent to Russia with characteristic flourish and beating of drums in response to Hitler's request for seven!

ITS IN THE AIR

A number of London air experts have concluded that Germany's air losses in all theatres of war are probably exceeding her aircraft production by about 300 machines a month. This figure is based on an American estimate of a monthly output of 2,500 German aircraft and takes into account the Russian call on reserves increases the *Luftwaffe* will grow weaker instead of stronger.

Meanwhile, the combined output of Britain, Russia and the United States of America, is estimated at about 6,000 aircraft monthly. Britain and Russia are at present losing monthly about 1,750 machines.

So, at the present pace, the Freedom Front is approaching air superiority over the Axis at the rate of well over 4,000 planes a month.

HITLER CALLS

"ACCORDING TO PLAN"

Hitler took leave from the Eastern Front last week to stand on a rostrum in Berlin and deliver his annual exhortation to the German people to give generously to the "Winter Help" Fund. But his speech dealt almost exclusively with the Russian campaign and he showed far more concern about civilian morale than civilian generosity. After urging the people to make "such an effort that the soldier at the front is convinced of being as much as possible cared for by those in the rear," he declared that they could not expect Providence to help them unless the entire German nation became a "single community of sacrifice."

The clearest indication that the Germans no longer trust their own official war news was given by Hitler's insistence that, "the High Command communique is a report of the truth." Further proof was afforded by his efforts to refute "the speeches of Herr Churchill." The only source from which the Germans can get a full and authentic version of Churchill's speeches is the B.B.C. For the past two months any German caught listening in to London has been summarily sentenced to death. In spite of this drastic punishment it is evident that the Germans are still listening to the truth—that most feared enemy of the Nazi system.

"Right up to now," said Hitler, "every operation has taken its course exactly according to plan." At the same time he announced the opening of a new October offensive on the Eastern front. But three months ago Hitler did not bargain for an October offensive in Russia. In the Middle East, yes, against Britain probably, but in Russia—No! According to his plan on June 22, Hitler would have dictated "peace" to the Soviet by the end of August. at the latest. As early as July 7 the German radio announced that the Russians had thrown in their last reserves and on July 23 the German military attaché at Ankara said the campaign would be over in six weeks, while on July 15 the Berlin correspondent of the *Stockholm Tidningens* was told that the Eastern campaign would be essentially completed" by August 15. German troops entered Smolensk a whole month after the German radio had claimed its capture and Kiev held out for two months after the same announcer had claimed that its last fortifications had fallen.

It was no part of Hitler's plan that his fifth column should be driven out of Iran before his armies could penetrate to the Caucasus. It was no part of his plan that Beaverbrook and Harriman should be in Moscow, which is still miles from the nearest Nazi panzer. He did not expect to find the smiling cornfields of the Ukraine charred and worthless. He did not think the Russians would have the courage to destroy their most cherished creation—the Dnieper Dam—so that the electric dynamoes of the Ukraine factories would not turn for their enemies. He did not imagine that thousands of tons of Anglo-American supplies would now be pouring through Murmansk, Archangel, Vladivostok, Merv and Baku or that the Eastern Front would extend in an unbroken line from the White Sea to the Equator, passing through Iran, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and the Sudan.

In November 1940, Hitler said, "Calm and determined, we shall take our stand in 1941 to *complete* what was begun last year." Although he now declares that "the enemy already lies defeated and cannot rise again," his radio stations are hard at work preparing the people for a winter campaign in Russia, and telling them that, until Russia is finally defeated, Britain cannot be overthrown.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East

FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 30—October 5, 1941

TANK WEEK STAGGERS GOEBBELS

" Germany is sinking ships at a tremendous rate. Millions of tons of supplies stored in the United States will be useless as they cannot be trasported."

(*German in English, Sep.* 30.)

The success of the Moscow conference and the arrival of help for Russia have thrown German propaganda into confusion. On the very same day Berlin admitted that American supplies were reaching the Soviet, but consoled itself with the hope that they would be too late " to save the exhausted Soviet Army."

And on the following day (October 1) the German broadcast in Hindustani declared that " War material delivered to Moscow a fortnight before the campaign proves that the Allies have been planning an attack on Germany for a long time."

FIFTH COLUMN TAKES TO THE ETHER

" Russian intentions to annex Noth-West Iran, including Tabriz, to Armenia were referred to in Iranian diplomatic circles."

(*German in Arabic and Persian, Oct.* 2.)
(*Italian in Arabic, Oct.* 2.)

" The Bolsheviks have committed acts of violence against the Iranians and the peaceful German colony there and have violated international law."

(*German in English, Sep.* 30.)

The only " diplomatic circles " that would have any interest in this false allegation are the German and Italian fifth columnists who have been rounded up just in time, and the persistence of this sort of thing in Axis broadcasts shows how necessary it was to clear them out of Iran.

Since the entry of the Soviet troops, 1,770 tons of sugar, 9,680 tons of wheat have been sent by the Soviet Union to Iran for general consumption, besides half a million metres of piecegoods. More stuff is yet to arrive.

SYRIAN FABLE AND FACT

" Reports from Syria and the Lebanon show that there is a reign of anarchy everywhere. Hunger and starvation have aggravated the distress of the people. Foodstuffs have been taken away by the British troops."

(*German in Persian and Arabic, Sep.* 29.)

The general supply situation has improved remarkably in Syria and will improve even more when the transport and communication policy in the Middle East is more completely implemented in a few months. Ten thousand tons of wheat has been sent to Damascus, 1,500 tons to Beirut and 5,000 tons of Canadian flour has also reached Beirut. Good supplies of sugar, kerosene, rice and coffee have also arrived in the country.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 6th October 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrols (not specifically mentioned) over West European coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
October 1, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day fighter offensive patrols over English Channel.	2 day fighters.	2 day fighters.
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on Stuttgart; other targets in W. and S.W. Germany; docks at Calais, Boulogne and Ostend.	1 night bomber.	1 night fighter.
	R.A.F. Coastal Command night bomber raid on convoy off Frisian Is. (merchantman afire).		
October 2, Thursday.	R.A.F. day fighter offensive patrols over English Channel and N. France, including attack on shipping off Dunkirk (barge afire). R.A.F. Coastal Command day bomber raid on shipping off Norwegian coast (2 motor vessels hit).	3 day fighters.	7 day fighters.
	R.A.F. night bomber raid on Brest (battleships *Scharnhorst, Gneisenau*; cruiser *Prinz Eugen*). R.A.F. Coastal Command night bomber raid on docks and shipyards at St. Nazaire. R.A.F. night fighter offensive patrols over aerodromes in occupied territory.	Nil.	..
October 3, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter raid on docks at Ostend. R.A.F. day fighter attack on escorted supply ship off Gravelines (flak-ship sunk, supply ship and 3 flak-ships afire, remaining 3 flak-ships damaged).	3 day fighters.	1 day fighter.
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on docks at Antwerp, Rotterdam, Dunkirk and Brest. R.A.F. Coastal Command night bomber raids on aerodromes at Aalborg (Denmark). R.A.F. night fighter offensive patrols over N. France, including attack on aerodrome.	1 night bomber.	..
October 4, Saturday.	(No reports of day or night operations)	Nil.	..
October 5, Sunday.	(No reports of day or night operations)	Nil.	..
October 6, Monday.	R.A.F. day fighter attack on four armed trawlers off Belgian coast (1 sunk, 1 afire). (No reports of night operations.)	Nil.	..

(*Continued on page* 12)

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

10th Oct.—The Royal Air Force bombs shipping and other objectives in Aalesund.

A single enemy aircraft drops bombs on the south-west coast of England and damages a few houses.

11th Oct.—Two hundred bombers take part when the Royal Air Force attacks Cologne and other targets in Rhineland and the Ruhr and raids enemy-occupied ports and aerodromes in Holland and France.

The Nazis drop bombs on Eastern England and cause slight damage and a few casualties.

12th Oct.—The Royal Air Force successfully raids North-Western Germany, starts fires in Emden and also attacks enemy ships.

An enemy bomber attacking a British convoy in the North Sea is shot down. Enemy activity over Britain is on a very small scale. Three enemy planes are shot down in an air battle over the Channel.

13th Oct.—Over 300 Royal Air Force bombers raid Nuremberg and other objectives in Bavaria, Rhineland and North-West Germany.

14th Oct.—Dusseldorf and Cologne are bombed by the Royal Air Force, also the docks at Boulogne and enemy shipping off the French, Dutch and Norwegian coasts.

15th Oct.—The Royal Air Force destroys five enemy fighters in the course of attacks on the docks at Le Havre.

16th Oct.—Targets in Western Germany as well as anti-aircraft ships, petrol stores and oil-tanks wagons in enemy-occupied territory are bombed by the Royal Air Force.

Slight enemy activity over the East Coast of England causes some damage but no casualties.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN.

11th Oct.—The Germans, failing to penetrate the Tobruk defences with tanks, try "anti-personnel bombs." Two hundred of these bombs are dropped but with very little success.

Polish troops are fighting in the front line at Tobruk.

The Royal Air Force bombs Libyan ports.

12th Oct.—Fleet torpedo planes and Royal Air Force bombers attack and cripple an Italian convoy in the Mediterranean. Enemy shipping in the Gulf of Sirte is successfully attacked.

Successful patrolling by Allied garrisons at Tobruk is reported. German tanks are destroyed and prisoners taken.

Benghazi and Tripoli are raided by heavy bombers of the Royal Air Force.

13th Oct.—Farinacci, prominent Fascist leader, says that Italy must prepare to face a long war.

Count Sforza, former Foreign Minister of Italy in a Columbus Day broadcast from America, urges Italy to accept the Atlantic Charter and turn her back on collaboration with the Axis.

14th Oct.—British submarines sink two enemy supply ships in the Mediterranean and severely damage another; and a Netherlands submarine sinks a fourth enemy ship.

The Royal Air Force raids Benghazi and Tripoli, drives off enemy planes from Malta and sinks an enemy ship in convoy.

Two train collisions are reported in Italy.

15th Oct.—Italy admits damage and casualties in two successive air raids by the British on Benghazi.

A British patrol captures the (Italian) garrison of an enemy post outside Tobruk.

16th Oct.—It is revealed that American bombers are being ferried to Britain and the Middle East *via* the West African Coast.

UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC.

10th Oct.—The United States House of Representatives refuses to exclude Russia from aid under the Lease and Lend appropriation and passes the new Lease and Lend Bill.

Mr. Wallace, the Vice-President, announces that United States of America is to requisition war materials discovered at ports throughout America consigned to Axis-dominated countries.

11th Oct.—The United States authorities discover and dispose of a Nazi radio station in Greenland and take into custody an enemy-controlled Norwegian ship *en route* to Greenland.

13th Oct.—President Roosevelt announces that munitions for Russia are leaving United States ports constantly.

Arrangements are well in hand for ferrying United States planes for the Allied forces in the Middle East.

Mr. Cordell Hull, Col. Knox and Mr. Stimson, members of President Roosevelt's Cabinet, urge the speedy modification of the Neutrality Act to help the Allies.

14th Oct.—President Roosevelt says that there is nothing in the conditions on the Russian front to make him doubt the success of the American programme of giving aid to nations resisting the Axis.

Senator Norris says that a United States—Japan war is inevitable if Russia loses to Germany and that such a war " is not a bad thing for United States " who can speedily destroy Japan's power.

A big shake-up of American Army officers is reported after the recent manoeuvres in Louisiana.

Rear-Admiral Yates Stirling, former Chief of Staff of the United States Fleet, says the American Navy is now on a war footing, patrolling the seas without lights and with gun-crews at their posts.

15th Oct.—Mr. Roosevelt states that transfers of Lease and Lend articles and services in September were about three times the average monthly figure in the preceeding half year.

16th Oct.—Senator Pepper declares that the United States of America should immobilise Japan and destroy the Japanese, Italian and French Navies.

President Roosevelt confers with members of his Cabinet and military advisers on the Far Eastern and Russian situations.

Two United States submarines are being transferred to the British Navy under the Lease and Lend Act.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

10th Oct.—Fierce fighting continues in the Vyazma sector where the enemy has succeeded in advancing at several points. The Soviet troops under General Boldin destroy in five days 220 tanks and 140 lorries and annihilate about 8,000 German officers and men.

The loss of Melitopol, Berdiansk and Mariupol is confirmed.

11th Oct.—The German High Command announces that the battle of the Sea Azov is concluded and that the bulk of the Soviet Ninth and Eighteenth Armies is beaten and " annihilated."

The Soviet Communiqué says that attacks near Vyazma are being repulsed and strong reinforcements are being sent to the Central Front to relieve the hard-pressed Soviet Army. Briansk falls into enemy hands and the Russians evacuate it.

12th Oct.—M. Lozovsky, the Soviet spokesman, claims that the Battle of Moscow has already shown that Hitler's aims can never be achieved in the present offensive.

The Moscow Radio states that in the Murmansk area 29 German bombers and fighters have been destroyed.

Lord Beaverbrook, in a broadcast, pledges that Britain will not fail Russia in her hour of need and says that M. Stalin must be sustained and the Soviet Union enabled to enter the Spring campaign with adequate supplies. All tanks and aircraft asked for by M. Stalin have been promised.

13th Oct.—The Soviet announces the evacuation of Vyazma. The Nazis claim the capture of 350,000 prisoners in the fighting in the Briansk-Vyazma sector. It is clear that the German drive to Moscow has slowed down though it has not been completely held. It is revealed that M. Stalin has visited the front.

14th Oct.—Activity on the Russian front is confined to the centre. The Germans, after advancing to 65 miles from Moscow at one point, are driven back by the Soviet forces.

" The Germans will never reach Moscow," says M. Lozovsky, the Soviet spokesman.

His Excellency the Viceroy makes a grant of one lakh of rupees from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the provision of surgical and medical supplies from India to Russia.

15th Oct.—Marshal Timoshenko bars Hitler's road to Moscow on the famous Napoleonic battle-field of Borodino. Three new army corps are thrown into the battle by the Russians to stem the advance of the Germans who have reached Kalinin, to the north-west of Moscow.

16th Oct.—The Battle of Moscow reaches its climax. The Nazis claim the capture of Kalinin and Kaluga and state that the capital's outer defences are under fire. The Soviet admit a break-through by the Germans to the west of Moscow, achieved at the cost of hundreds of thousands of German lives, and state that resistance to the enemy is as stubborn as ever.

It is reported that foreign Embassies are leaving Moscow for Kazan, about 400 miles further east, which may become the temporary Soviet capital.

On the southern front the Rumanians claim the capture of Odessa. But in the north, the Russians drive the Germans from several fortified places outside Leningrad.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, SYRIA, ETC.

11th Oct.—The Teheran Radio says that the new Shah addressed the Iranian Deputies at the Marble Palace. A grant of twenty million rials for nation-building is announced by His Majesty.

13th Oct.—**General Aucdinleck has returned** to Cairo from a short tour of the defences in Palestine and Syria.

14th Oct.—The Allied troops in Teheran are withdrawing to positions outside the city as no disturbances have occurred recently in the Iranian capital.

16th Oct.—A hundred thousand guerillas are reported to be playing havoc with German communications in Yugoslavia.

SHIPPING

10th Oct.—A 6,000-ton enemy vessel is torpedoed and sunk by British Naval aircraft, says a Middle East Communiqué.

The Admiralty announces the introduction of fighter aircraft as means of new protection for merchantmen. These aircraft will be catapaulted into the air by the latter whenever enemy bombers make their appearance.

11th Oct.—The United States Maritime Commission announces the signing on of contracts for the construction of 49 more tankers which will give America the largest tanker fleet in the world.

13th Oct—It is announced that Malaya (as well as Australia) is building ships for the Royal Indian Navy.

14th Oct.—It is reported that four ships in a convoy have been sunk a hundred miles from the Azores. Eighty survivors reach Lisbon.

15th Oct.—An enemy supply ship is torpedoed off Norway by Coastal Command aircraft.

THE FAR EAST

10th Oct.—Dr. Henry Grady, United States Special Economic Investigator in the Far East, says that within a few weeks China will have an effective air force composed of American planes.

More Chinese successes in the Changsha area are reported, following Marshal Chiang Kai-shek's call for an all-out effort to beat Japan.

The United States Military Mission under Brigadier General John Macgruder arrives in Chungking.

The Japanese use poison gas and the Chinese suffer heavy casualties in the battle of Ichang.

It is reported that Herr Stahmer, the Nazi specialist on Far Eastern questions, is about to be sent to represent Germany at Nanking.

12th Oct.—The Chinese capture Ichang, the important Treaty Port on the Yangtse.

13th Oct.—Prince Konoye, the Japanese Premier, reports to the Emperor.

Chinese forces are beginning a counter-offensive towards Shasi in the Ichang front, also towards Yochow and Linsiang on the North Hunan front.

Sir Robert Brooke-Popham arrives in Australia by air for conversations with the Commonwealth Government.

WAR IN THE AIR—(*Continued from Page* 9)

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 6th October 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attacks (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
October 1	Nil.	..
October 2	Nil.	3 night bombers.
October 3	Nil.	1 night bomber .
October 4	Nil.	..
October 5	Nil.	..
October 6	Nil.	..

The Commander-in-Chief of the Netherlands Indies Army, Lieut.-Gen. Berenshot, is killed in an air crash on his way to Bandoeng after his conversation with Sir Robert Brooke-Popham (in Batavia).

14th Oct.—The Chinese forces leave Ichang owing to intensive bombing of the city by the Japanese.

A Japanese Army spokesman denies the use of poison-gas against the Chinese forces at Ichang.

The Thailand Premier, in a broadcast from Bangkok, urges foreign communities in the country to refrain from propaganda.

The Australian press says that the A. B. C. D. (Democratic) Front in the Far East should warn Japan against any stab-in-the-back attack on Siberia.

15th Oct.—Russia and Japan sign an agreement settling Manchukuo-Mongolian border problems.

The Japanese Premier confers with elder statesmen and Cabinet collegues on "grave matters."

Major-Gen. Terpoorten is appointed Chief of Staff of the Netherlands Indies Army.

16th Oct.—Prince Konoye's Cabinet resigns and this is thought in America to foreshadow some aggressive move by Japan.

A Japanese Army spokesman warns the army to be ready for any eventuality.

Sir Robert Brooke-Popham attends the meeting of the War Council in Melbourne and says "We do not want war with Japan but if Japan insists on it, we are ready."

The Australian Navy announces the laying of mine-fields off certain coastal regions.

The Chinese capture an important point to the south of Chengchow and are advancing on the city.

The Banghok Radio warns Thailanders that grave events are creeping towards their land.

Col. Knox, United States Secretary for the Navy, says that the proposed air service between Japan and Portuguese Timor is unjustified commercially.

VICHY AND OCCUPIED FRANCE

10th Oct.—Fears of a fresh wave of Gestapo terror sweep through Paris when the body of Mme. Tonia Masse, the Secretary of the French Fascist leader, Eugene Deloncle, is discovered in the Seine.

13th Oct.—Admiral Darlan is on a visit to Paris.

Senator Connally, Chairman of the United States Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, says that America will seize hold of any French colonies in the Western Hemisphere if the Vichy Government permitted Germans to use them.

16th Oct.—Marshal Petain orders the detention in a fortress, of M. M. Daladier, Blum, Reynaud, Mandel and Guy la Chambre and General Gamelin.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.

10th Oct.—In revenge for local sabotage, it is reported the Germans have razed to the ground the village of Sabac, 90 miles west of Belgrade, and sent all surviving males to a concentration camp.

Twelve more Czech patriots are executed in Bohemia.

The Greek Premier, in the course of a report to Mr. Churchill on German atrocities in Crete, suggests the trial and execution in Berlin after the war of those responsible for the atrocities perpetrated in occupied countries.

Considerable detachments of British and Greek forces are reported to be carrying on guerilla warfare in Crete.

11th Oct.—The Sokol, the Czechoslovak patriotic organization is dissolved by the Germans throughout Bohemia and Moravia and its property confiscated.

12th Oct.—The Holy Synod at Belgrade presents to the German military authorities a memorandum on the atrocities committed against the Serbians by Ustachis (Croat terrorists).

15th Oct.—Two divisions of Polish troops are ready to go into action on the Eastern front against Germany.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

10th Oct.—An all-party Government is reported to have been formed in Panama under the former Minister of Justice, de la Guardia, and ex-President Aria's followers are arrested.

11th Oct.—Col. Batista, President of Cuba, declares that Cuba will immediately abandon her policy of strict neutrality and that she is whole-heartedly with the United States of America and the Democratic powers.

13th Oct.—Aircraft of unknown nationality drop bombs on a village in Switzerland on the shore of Lake Constance.

14th Oct.—It is reported that the Portuguese steamer Corte Real was topedoed and sunk in the Atlantic by a German U-Boat.

The United States and Argentina have concluded a new trade agreement.

15th Oct.—Peru is stated to be negotiating with the United States of America in order to get the latter to revoke her decision to divert to the Soviet Union over one million dollars worth of bombing planes and equipment destined for Peru.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Information Officer and Special Press Adviser, Madras.]

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